

Appl. No.: 10/009,453
Response dated November 12, 2003
Reply to Office action of August 13, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): A composition comprising:

(a) an active ingredient selected from the group consisting of a cosmetically-active ingredient, a pharmaceutically-active ingredient, and mixtures thereof; and

(b) metal soap nanoparticles having a mean diameter of from about 10 to 300 nm, wherein the metal soap nanoparticles are coated with a coating compound selected from the group consisting of a protective colloid, an emulsifier, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 10 (original): The composition of claim 9 wherein the metal soap nanoparticles have a mean diameter of from about 50 to 150 nm.

Claim 11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (original): The composition of claim 9 wherein the metal soap nanoparticles are present in the composition in an amount of from about 0.1 to 5% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

Claim 13 (original): The composition of claim 9 wherein the metal soap nanoparticles are present in the composition in an amount of from about 0.5 to 3% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

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Claim 14 (original): The composition of claim 9 wherein the metal soap nanoparticles are present in the composition in an amount of from about 1 to 2% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A process for enhancing the stability, opacity and consistency of a cosmetic or pharmaceutical composition comprising adding metal soap nanoparticles having a mean diameter of from about 10 to 300 nm to the composition, wherein the metal soap nanoparticles are coated with a coating compound selected from the group consisting of a protective colloid, an emulsifier, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 16 (original): The process of claim 15 wherein the metal soap nanoparticles have a mean diameter of from about 50 to 150 nm.

Claim 17 (cancelled)

Claim 18 (original): The process of claim 15 wherein the metal soap nanoparticles are added to the composition in an amount of from about 0.1 to 5% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

Claim 19 (original): The process of claim 15 wherein the metal soap nanoparticles are added to the composition in an amount of from about 0.5 to 3% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

Claim 20 (original): The process of claim 15 wherein the metal soap nanoparticles are added to the composition in an amount of from about 1 to 2% by weight, based on the

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weight of the composition.

Claim 21 (new): The composition of claim 9 wherein the coating compound is present on the nanoparticles in an amount of from about 0.1 to 20% by weight, based on the weight of the nanoparticles.

Claim 22 (new): The composition of claim 9 wherein the coating compound is present on the nanoparticles in an amount of from about 5 to 15% by weight, based on the weight of the nanoparticles.

Claim 23 (new): The process of claim 15 wherein the coating compound is present on the nanoparticles in an amount of from about 0.1 to 20% by weight, based on the weight of the nanoparticles.

Claim 24 (new): The process of claim 15 wherein the coating compound is present on the nanoparticles in an amount of from about 5 to 15% by weight, based on the weight of the nanoparticles.